



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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14TH MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Bonn, Germany, 14-17 March 2007

CMS/ScC14/Doc.21
Agenda item 4

REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2006-2011 FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The 13th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Nairobi, 16-18 November 2005) finalized and adopted a Strategy Implementation Plan (SIP) for the period 2006-2011. The SIP aims at defining and planning the contribution of the Scientific Council to the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2006-2011, adopted by the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005).
2. The SIP represents for the Council a significant shift to a more strategic and outcome-focused way of working. In this regard, prominent features of the SIP are:
 - (i) The development of a number of strategic rolling documents to summarise key information for decision-making by the Convention, including a regular review of the status of species on Appendix I.
 - (ii) Improved scientific integrity of the Convention's Appendices (taxonomy and completion).
 - (iii) Enhanced attention to species on Appendix I.
 - (iv) Enhanced attention to issues concerning habitat loss and fragmentation.
 - (v) Greater scientific cooperation between the Scientific Council and CMS Agreements, and with the technical bodies of other conventions.
3. Activities envisaged under the SIP have been designed to be measurable, with milestones for completion, so that progress could be assessed regularly. It is on the other hand to be noted that the SIP was finalized before a decision by COP8 on the budget for the triennium 2006-2008, therefore without an indication of the resources available for its implementation.
4. This document aims at (i) providing a synthetic overview of progress in the implementation of the SIP to the date of the meeting, and (ii) suggesting for individual activities a revision of the targets at ScC14 and ScC15, on the basis of current progress and foreseeable human and financial resources.

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**CMS STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1
TO ENSURE THAT THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATORY SPECIES IS BASED ON THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

No.	Scientific Council Action	Progress as at March 2007	ScC14 Action/Target	ScC15 Target
1.1	Ensure that the best information is available for the conservation and management of endangered migratory species with regard to CMS Appendix I			
1.1.1	Undertake summary scientific reviews of the main taxonomic groups of migratory species, to identify outstanding candidate species for listing on Appendix I	Draft review of Elasmobranchii prepared with financial support from UK Government, for consideration by ScC14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine and provide guidance as appropriate for the finalization of the draft review of Elasmobranchii • Format of further reviews agreed 	A minimum of two further taxonomic groups reviewed
1.1.2	Prepare and maintain a list of species which meet the scientific criteria for listing on Appendix I, but which have not yet been listed	Several pre-proposals for listing on CMS Appendices submitted to ScC14 for review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format of the list agreed • Pre-proposals assessed 	List compiled and updated for the taxa assessed
1.1.3	Prepare a prioritised list of Appendix I species for concerted action taking into account also the feasibility of achieving positive conservation outcomes.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of possible candidate species for Concerted Actions within taxonomic Working Groups • Action integrated in the intersessional Work Plan of Taxonomic Working Groups as appropriate 	Prioritised list approved and submitted to COP9
1.1.4	Review the availability of action plans for all Appendix I species, including format, dates of preparation and review, source, comprehensiveness / adequacy.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action integrated in the intersessional Work Plan of Taxonomic Working Groups as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review completed • Prioritised list of species requiring action plans approved
1.1.5	Prepare new Action Plans (prioritised according to threat status), according to the CMS format, for the protection and recovery of all Appendix I species that do not yet have one.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund-raising: € 42,000 received from Italy for the preparation of new Action Plans, with preference for species covered also by AEWA • Action Plans for Black-faced Spoonbill (<i>Platalea minor</i>), Spoon-billed Sandpiper (<i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>), and Chinese Crested Tern (<i>Sterna bernsteini</i>) in advanced stage of elaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation of priority species for the use of the pledge from Italy • Review of progress in current Action Plan elaboration 	Progress assessed
1.1.6	Undertake a complete review of Appendix I for consideration at every 3 rd COP (starting with COP9). This review should include the following items: a review of the status of the Appendix (level of completion); review of the principles and procedures for listing or de-listing; adoption, if necessary, of changes to the taxonomic reference systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for a change in the taxonomic reference for mammals prepared and submitted to ScC14 for consideration <p>N.B. This action is expected to be developed in parallel with action 1.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devise process for the definition of TOR and procedure for the review • Proposal for a change in the taxonomic reference for mammals considered 	TOR and procedure for review agreed

1.1.7	Through the CMS-IMS, the Scientific Council will report to each meeting of the COP on the population status (size and range) of all Appendix I species and level of protection in each range state, using the most up to date information available. This will be achieved by means of a standardised report	Fund-raising: Action included in the list of projects for which voluntary contributions are sought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format of the report agreed • Methodologies for reporting approved, including possible recommendations for the revision of the format of National Reports 	Report agreed for submission to COP9
1.1.8	Through the CMS-IMS, the Scientific Council will report to each meeting of the COP on the concerted actions being undertaken for all Appendix I species, using the most up to date information, by means of a standardised report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format of the report agreed • Methodologies for reporting approved 	Report agreed for submission to COP9
1.2	Ensure that the best information is available for the conservation and management of migratory species with an unfavourable conservation status (Appendix II species (Art. IV))			
1.2.1	Undertake summary scientific reviews, by taxonomic group, to identify those migratory species and groups of species with an unfavourable conservation status that would significantly benefit from new CMS Cooperative Actions, including Agreements	Draft review of Elasmobranchii prepared with financial support from UK Government, for consideration by ScC14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine and provide guidance as appropriate for the finalization of the draft review of Elasmobranchii • Format of further reviews agreed 	A minimum of two further taxonomic groups reviewed
1.2.2	Prepare and maintain a list of species which meet the scientific criteria for listing on Appendix II, but which have not yet been listed.	Several pre-proposals for listing on CMS Appendices submitted to ScC14 for review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format of the list agreed • Pre-proposals assessed 	List compiled and updated for the taxa assessed
1.2.3	Develop and maintain an overview of all Agreements, regional initiatives, and other cooperative actions/initiatives being undertaken under CMS and other auspices for migratory species with an unfavourable conservation status		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept/format for Table approved 	Table compiled
1.2.4	Undertake a complete review of Appendix II for consideration at every 3 rd COP (starting with COP10)	Not action expected for the current triennium. However, action undertaken under 1.1.2 and 1.1.6 is relevant		
1.2.5	Develop a rolling programme of outcome-focused reviews of the effectiveness of CMS Agreements and other cooperative actions in conserving species on Appendix II. This should also include review of any initiatives to launch a Cooperative Action that have stalled for more than 3 years. Following consideration of the results of such reviews, submit recommendations to meetings of the COP for their enhancement and to improve synergies.		Consider the scope and feasibility of this action, and its possible revision	ToR of the reviews agreed, or possible suppression
1.3	Ensure that the best information is available to identify and assess the major threats to migratory species			
1.3.1	Review the results of scientific work on climate change under the auspices of other bodies, as well as by Contracting Parties. Assess the relevance and importance of such work for the conservation of migratory species and the aims of the CMS	Action largely fulfilled by DEFRA report 'Climate Change and Migratory Species' presented at ScC13		

1.3.2	Review the effects of hunting (taking) on migratory species, particularly marine mammals/large fish, marine turtles, large terrestrial mammals and birds, to identify priority issues to be addressed through CMS.	Fund-raising: Action included in the list of projects for which voluntary contributions are sought	TOR for review agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review considered • Rec. submitted to COP9
1.3.3	Review the effects of by-catch and unregulated fisheries on migratory species, particularly of marine mammals, large marine fish, marine turtles and albatrosses/petrels to identify priority issues to be addressed through CMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund-raising: pledges received from UK and Australia • Draft ToR submitted to ScC14 for consideration 	TOR for review agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review considered • Rec. submitted to COP9
1.3.4	Review the effects of habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation on migratory species in terrestrial and coastal environments (particularly wetlands, forests, grasslands, arid lands) to identify priority issues to be addressed through CMS	Scheduled for 2009-2011		
1.3.5	Review the effects of barriers to migration on migratory species.	• Fund-raising: pledges received from Monaco	TOR for review agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review considered • Rec. submitted to COP9
1.3.6	Review the effects of pollution (including oil pollution – see Res. 7.3), disease and alien invasive species on migratory species to identify priority issues to be addressed through CMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund-raising: pledges received from Italy for review on the impact of Invasive Alien Species on Migratory Species • ToR for the review agreed • Review contracted out 	Contribution of ScC to the review agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review considered • Rec. submitted to COP9
1.3.7	Identify emerging threats to migratory species and prioritize those to be addressed by CMS		Methodology approved	Report submitted to COP9
1.3.8	Identify (through the Action Plans described under Operational Objective 1.3) networks of critical sites for Concerted Action species throughout their range.		Methodology discussed	Methodology approved
1.3.9	Identify, in the framework of Agreements or the preparation of Cooperative Actions, important ecological networks of sites/habitats and key migration corridors required by Appendix II species		Methodology discussed	Methodology approved
1.3.10	Build on work already initiated by the Scientific Council (Doc. UNEP/CMS/ScC 5.3) through a commissioned study, to advise how CMS can most effectively address the problems caused by obstacles to migration. Special attention should be given to impacts on Appendix I species		Consider merging with Action 1.3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review considered • Rec. submitted to COP9
1.3.11	Undertake regular evaluation of the contribution that CMS has made to controlling, removing or mitigating threats to animal migration	Scheduled for 2009-2011		
1.4	Ensure that strategic research provides the necessary evidence to address the major issues affecting migratory species			
1.4.1	On the basis of the reviews described in Activities 1.1.1 and 1.2.1, and species Action Plans, identify the main strategic research priorities required to address the conservation of migratory species.	Scheduled for 2009-2011		

1.4.2	Maintain a <i>List of CMS Research Priorities</i> , as identified in 1.4.1, that can be promoted widely to national and international research funding bodies.			Concept/Format of List approved
1.4.3	Explore the best ways and means to promote and facilitate scientific and technical co-operation and research on migratory species (including via the CBD Clearing House Mechanism)		Consider postponement to 2009-2011	
1.4.4	Use the information gathered under actions 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 to prepare a report to each meeting of the COP on the progress in research, and the outstanding research priorities, as summarised in the <i>List of CMS Research Priorities</i>		Consider postponement to 2009-2011	
1.4.5	Ensure that all Action Plans for Appendix I species adequately address the priority needs for monitoring and research on these species			Methodology agreed
1.4.6	Review standards of recent CMS-commissioned research reports, and develop guidelines for improved quality control and standardisation			Methodology agreed
1.5	Ensure that effective monitoring provides the necessary evidence to address the major issues affecting migratory species			
1.5.1	Advise each meeting of the COP to address any gaps in monitoring, and to provide any necessary support to increase the capacity of developing countries to undertake monitoring, particularly of Appendix I species.			Methodology agreed
1.5.2	On the basis of monitoring information provided through the CMS-IMS for Appendix I species, include a simple assessment of population trend (stable, increasing, declining, unknown) for each species in the <i>CMS Appendix I Actions for Recovery Table</i> .			Assess suitability of IMIS to provide such assessment
1.5.3	Through the development of closer scientific liaison with daughter Agreements, promote collaboration and enhancement of monitoring programmes, where necessary through appropriate recommendations to the COP and capacity building.			Consider methodology
1.5.4	Use the information gathered under actions 1.1.1, 1.2.1 and 1.5.1 to prepare a report to each meeting of the COP on the progress in monitoring of migratory species, and the outstanding monitoring priorities.			Format of the report considered
1.5.5	Identify experts on migratory species who could be included on the CBD roster of experts, to aid development of indicators.			Consider methodology
1.5.6	Organize a technical workshop or commission a study to examine migratory species as indicators, as a contribution to the CBD work programme on indicators.		Consider this action in the framework of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership	Progress in the development of migratory species indicators assessed

1.5.7	From a candidate list of indicators identified in 1.5.6 (including Appendix I species, marine / coastal / terrestrial / freshwater species, threats), select and develop 1-3 SIMPLE indicators of the` status of migratory species		Consider this action in the framework of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership	Progress in the development of migratory species indicators assessed
1.6	Contribute to an effective CMS Information Management System			
1.6.1	Prepare guidance for the Secretariat on the Scientific Council's requirements from the proposed CMS Information Management System, and review effectiveness of the IMS once it has been established		Consider ScC requirements from CMS Information Management System (IMS)	• Define ScC requirements from CMS Information Management System (IMS)
CMS STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 2				
TO ENSURE THAT MIGRATORY SPECIES BENEFIT FROM THE BEST POSSIBLE CONSERVATION MEASURES				
No.	Scientific Council Action	Progress as at March 2007	ScC14 Action/Target	ScC15 Target
2.1	Ensure the best possible conservation measures for endangered migratory species with regard to Appendix I			
2.1.1	Support Contracting Parties (particularly developing countries) to prepare and submit standard proposals for listing of species	Several draft proposals for listing on App. I prepared and submitted to ScC14 for consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted draft proposals assessed Identify possible additional species for which draft proposals should be prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify possible additional species for which draft proposals should be prepared
2.1.2	Review Appendix I to identify any candidate species for de-listing. Formulate a proposal to the COP to remove these species from Appendix I.		Consider action in conjunction with 1.1.7	Possible candidate species for de-listing identified
2.1.3	Submit a prioritised programme of Concerted Action recovery projects for Appendix I species to each meeting of the COP for funding, which meets priorities identified in scientific reviews or Action Plans.	Prioritized list of projects recommended by ScC12 and ScC13 within the Small Grant Programme (SGP) presented to potential donor Parties and other potential donors	Consider future development of the SGP	Prioritized list of proposals submitted to COP9
2.1.4	Continue to support Concerted Actions for Appendix I species, even if these are covered by an Agreement, through joint work plans with the relevant Agreement secretariats.		Work plans for cooperation between ScC and Agreement Secretariats determined	Progress assessed
2.2	Ensure the best possible conservation measures for migratory species with an unfavourable conservation status (Appendix II species (Art. IV))			
2.2.1	Support Contracting Parties (particularly developing countries) to prepare and submit standard proposals for listing of species	Several draft proposals for listing on App. II prepared and submitted to ScC14 for consideration		
2.2.2	Review Appendix II to identify any candidate species and group species for de-listing. Formulate a proposal to the COP to remove these species from Appendix II.		Consider methodology and criteria to identify candidate species for de-listing from App. II	Possible candidate species for de-listing identified

2.2.3	On the basis of the reviews conducted in 1.2.1 and an analysis of gaps from the <i>CMS Appendix II Agreements and MOUs Table</i> , submit prioritised recommendations to meetings of the COP for new Cooperative Actions to be developed through CMS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider re-defining this activity in view of clarification of the Cooperative Action concept made by ScC13 • Potential new Agreements identified 	Submit recommendation on potential new agreements to COP9
2.2.4	Provide the scientific leadership to the development of priority new CMS Agreements and Cooperative Actions identified in the <i>CMS Appendix II Agreements and MOUs Table</i> , through appointment of focal Councillors, inception workshops, project funding proposals etc			Programme of inception activities agreed for list to be approved at COP9
2.3	Ensure the best possible conservation measures are taken to control, remove and mitigate the major threats to migratory species, including habitat loss			
2.3.1	On the basis of 1.3.1 – 1.3.7, and using examples of best practice, prepare (or make available existing) guidelines to control or mitigate the impacts from major threats to migratory species, for dissemination to Contracting Parties.			Guidelines on reviewed threats submitted to COP9
2.3.2	Through the implementation of Concerted Actions, promote the protection of sites identified under 1.3.7, and their management and restoration to favour their recovery.			Rec. submitted to COP9 identifying unprotected key sites for CA species
2.3.3	Through the implementation of Agreements, Cooperative Actions, and synergy/partnerships with other Conventions (particularly CBD, Ramsar and the Convention to Combat Desertification), ensure that programmes are developed to restore, sustainably manage and where appropriate link the sites and habitats for migratory species identified in 1.3.8, using the principles of ecosystem management.		Consider postponement to 2009-2011	
2.3.4	Review the existing international guidance on environmental impact assessment, identify gaps in relation to migratory species interests and if necessary develop further guidance relating to migratory species issues	Contact maintained with CBD and Ramsar concerning possible integration of CBD new guidelines on EIA	Identify focal point councillor(s) for this initiative	Progress assessed
2.3.5	Develop guidance and formalise a mechanism for rapid CMS action and advocacy in response to emergency and non-compliance situations (eg pollution incidents, epidemics, detrimental taking of endangered species), using experience from previous arrangements (eg Monk Seal).		Consider postponement to 2009-2011	
2.3.6	Recommend to the COP or to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, concerted measures to be taken by Parties in respect of by-catch of seabirds, marine turtles and cetaceans listed in Appendices I and II (Res.6.2, and see Rec. 7.2).	See action 1.3.3		Concerted measures proposed to COP9 based on review in Activity 1.3.3

2.3.7	Consider the role CMS may play in addressing oil pollution and migratory species by reviewing existing plans and provisions to address oil pollution; and similarly, reviewing existing relevant programmes for training and information exchange (see Res.7.3).	Scheduled for 2009-2011		
2.3.8	Review the issue of the use of tracking devices with endangered migratory species including the Guidelines already developed by the Scientific Council, and review further issues that may arise concerning such techniques at every second inter-sessional meeting.			Consider requirements for this action
2.3.9	Support implementation of the recommendations from 1.3.5 on obstacles to migration by preparing guidelines for remedial measures, and by gathering and disseminating the results of case studies			Consider requirements for this action
2.3.10	Assess existing and potential threats from wind turbines in relation to migratory mammals and birds, including their habitats and food sources, to develop specific guidelines for the establishment of such plants and to report to COP8 (see Res.7.5).			Consider requirements for this action

CMS STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 3

TO BROADEN AWARENESS AND ENHANCE ENGAGEMENT IN THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES AMONGST KEY ACTORS

No.	Scientific Council Action	Progress as at March 2007	ScC14 Action/Target	ScC15 Target
3.1	Disseminate information on migratory species so as to enhance their conservation, through improved decision-making and greater public awareness			
3.1.1	Advise the CMS Secretariat on the (scientific / technical) contents of an Information Pack to be provided to all Contracting Parties and Scientific Councillors, particularly concerning actions required for Appendix I species.		Methodology approved	Advice completed
3.1.2	Identify flagship species that CMS could use to raise public/ government awareness and capacity (eg satellite tracking of turtles and by-catch).		Identify focal point councillor(s) for this initiative	Flagship species identified
3.1.3	Review and suggest materials for addition to the CMS web site.		Identify focal point councillor(s) for this initiative	Advice completed

CMS STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 4				
TO REINFORCE CMS's OVERARCHING AND UNIFYING ROLE IN THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATORY SPECIES				
No.	Scientific Council Action	Progress as at March 2007	ScC14 Action/Target	ScC15 Target
4.1	Ensure maximum efficiency through synergy and close cooperation with daughter Agreements, other MEAs and other appropriate			
4.1.1	Maintain close cooperation with scientific focal points and committees of daughter Agreements, regional initiatives (particularly in the marine environment), and the Scientific bodies of UNEP and other conventions (particularly with regard to synergistic actions and cross cutting issues (Research, monitoring, capacity building, addressing threats, recovery actions for Appendix I species etc.)). This will be achieved through cross-representation on appropriate bodies, periodic meeting of Chairs, cross-reporting and joint activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs of advisory bodies of daughter agreements and other relevant MEAs invited to ScC14 • Dr. Perrin acting as liaison councillor with IWC SC, and regularly reporting on relevant progress 	Identify focal point councillors for other Agreements/MEAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress reviewed • Mechanisms for cooperation agreed
4.1.2	Review existing scientific links between the CMS and other bodies undertaking work on threats to migratory species (eg. CBD, Ramsar Convention, Climate Change Convention, Convention to Combat Desertification). Formulate proposals for improving and strengthening such links where necessary with the objective of ensuring that the CMS has access to the most up to date scientific information available to assist and inform its deliberations; report conclusions and make recommendations to the meeting of the COP.			Consider the scope and feasibility of this action, and its possible revision

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